

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides systems, methods and data structures for transmitting genealogical data across a transmission medium such as the Internet. The genealogical data is stored at a database maintained by a server and when a user requests the genealogical data for a particular pedigree chart, the server generates a data structure that is representative of the individuals in the pedigree chart. The data structure identifies the individuals in the pedigree chart by family relationships and does not contain any genealogical data. The data structure is next transmitted to a client where it is expanded to more fully represent the individuals in the pedigree chart. The expanded data structure not only defines the generations of the pedigree chart but also establishes a link between individuals in the same generation as well as between individuals in adjacent generations. Each individual is represented by a node. The pedigree chart, in the form of nodes, is displayed to a user. The user selects a particular node in the pedigree chart, for example, by mousing over a particular node. When this action or user selection is detected, the genealogical information for that individual is retrieved from the database, displayed to the user, and cached at the client.

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